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CHEROKEE

NATIONAL FOREST



Forest Service

Southern Region

U. S. Department of Agriculture • April 1953

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

THE Cherokee National Forest extends from Georgia to Virginia along the mountainous eastern border of Tennessee. It has two divisions, one south and one north of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The southern part, from the Georgia line to the Little Tennessee River, is known as the Cherokee Division. The northern part, between the Pigeon River and the Virginia line, is called the Unaka Division.

Of a gross area of more than 1 million acres within the forest boundary, 581,000 acres are Government-owned. The remainder is mostly in private ownership. Some 50,000 people, mostly rural, live within the forest boundary. The cities of Chattanooga, Knoxville, Johnson City, and Bristol are all within 1 to 2 hours' travel distance of the forest. More than half the country's people live within an 8-hour car drive of the forest.

The Cherokee is one of the 153 national forests in 40 States administered by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Like all national forests, it is administered under a multiple-use principle for the greatest good to the greatest number of people. This means that water, timber, wildlife, and recreation are protected and developed at the same time, with consideration to the relative importance of each.

Water

Watershed protection was the primary purpose in establishing the Cherokee, as well as other national forests in the southern Appalachians. This mountainous region forms the headwaters of the Tennessee River and some of its important tributaries.

Since 1933, the Tennessee River has been controlled and made navigable by 9 dams on the Tennessee River and 19 more on its tributaries. Power production at these Tennessee Valley Authority dams and auxiliary steam plants is about 16 billion kilowatt-hours per year. Six of the dams are located within the forest, forming Parksville Lake, on the Ocoee River, with two smaller reservoirs above it, and reservoirs on the Holston and Watauga Rivers.

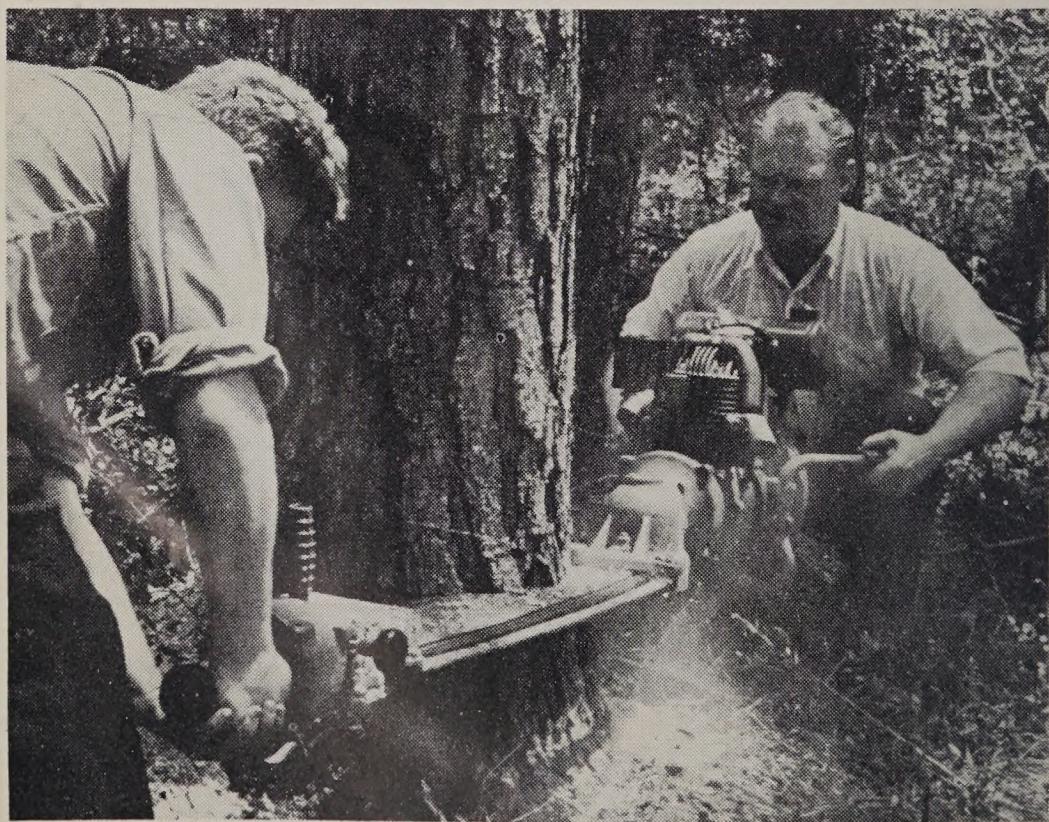
Two major towns, Johnson City and Greeneville, obtain their water directly from the streams of the forest. The Cherokee forest also conserves and regulates the flow of many other streams that furnish water to thousands of farms and rural communities.

Forest cover, with its undergrowth of shrubs and plants; together with fallen leaves, needles, and humus, creates ideal conditions on the ground and in the soil for maximum water absorption. Water is released more evenly to streams—clear of silt and useful. When this cover is damaged or destroyed the soil loses much of its capacity for absorption. Heavy rains quickly run off, causing floods, surface erosion, sedimentation of streams, and muddy water supplies. Hence wood and other forest products must be harvested with care, so as to avoid appreciable damage to the watershed. The huge investments in dams and reservoirs of the TVA system, together with city, farmland, and industrial developments, make watershed protection and sound management imperative.

Timber

Timber production, yielding sawlogs, pulpwood, fence posts, and many other products, is one of the primary uses of the forest. This use, when conducted under sound forestry practices, in no way conflicts with the all-important function of watershed protection.

The principal species listed in order of importance by volume are: Yellow pine, chestnut oak, hemlock, yellow-poplar, white pine, and white and northern red oaks. There are numerous other species of less commercial importance.



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Trees are a crop. They should be grown for useful products and harvested when mature.

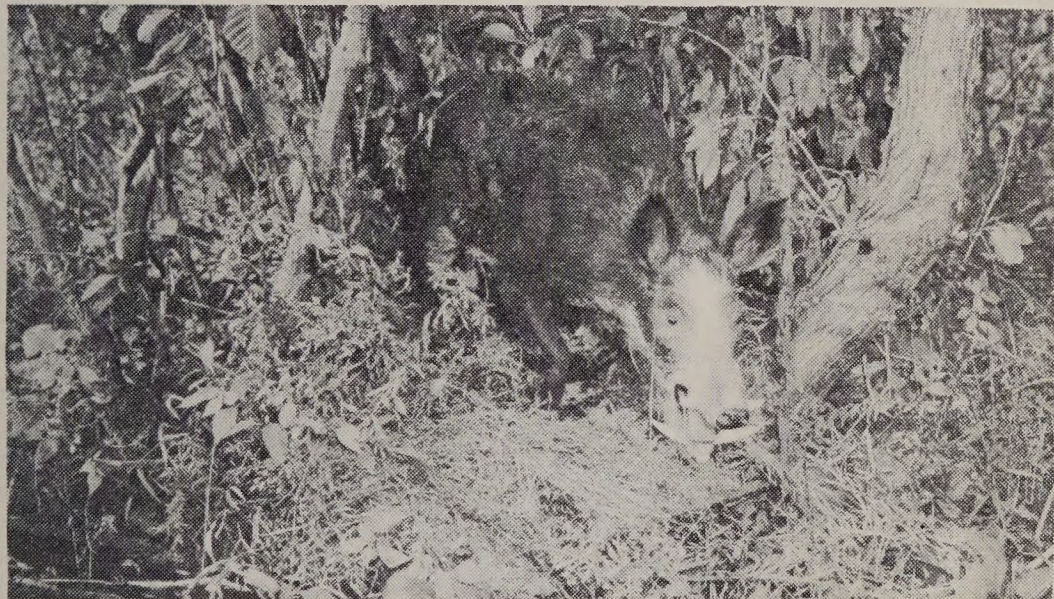
The forest now contains over 1 billion board feet of merchantable timber, exclusive of dead chestnut, and has an annual growth of 30 million board feet. The present annual cut is 20 million board feet of green timber. This leaves a margin of growth to build up depleted stands.

Income from the sale of forest products exceeds \$200,000 per year. Twenty-five percent of this income is returned to the various counties in which the national forest is located.

All products of the forest are cut by private individuals or companies. Sales range in size from one tree to several million board feet. All sales over \$2,000 in value are advertised and sold to the highest bidder. This system gives all prospective purchasers an equal opportunity to buy national forest timber and assures the Forest Service a fair price for the product.

Wildlife

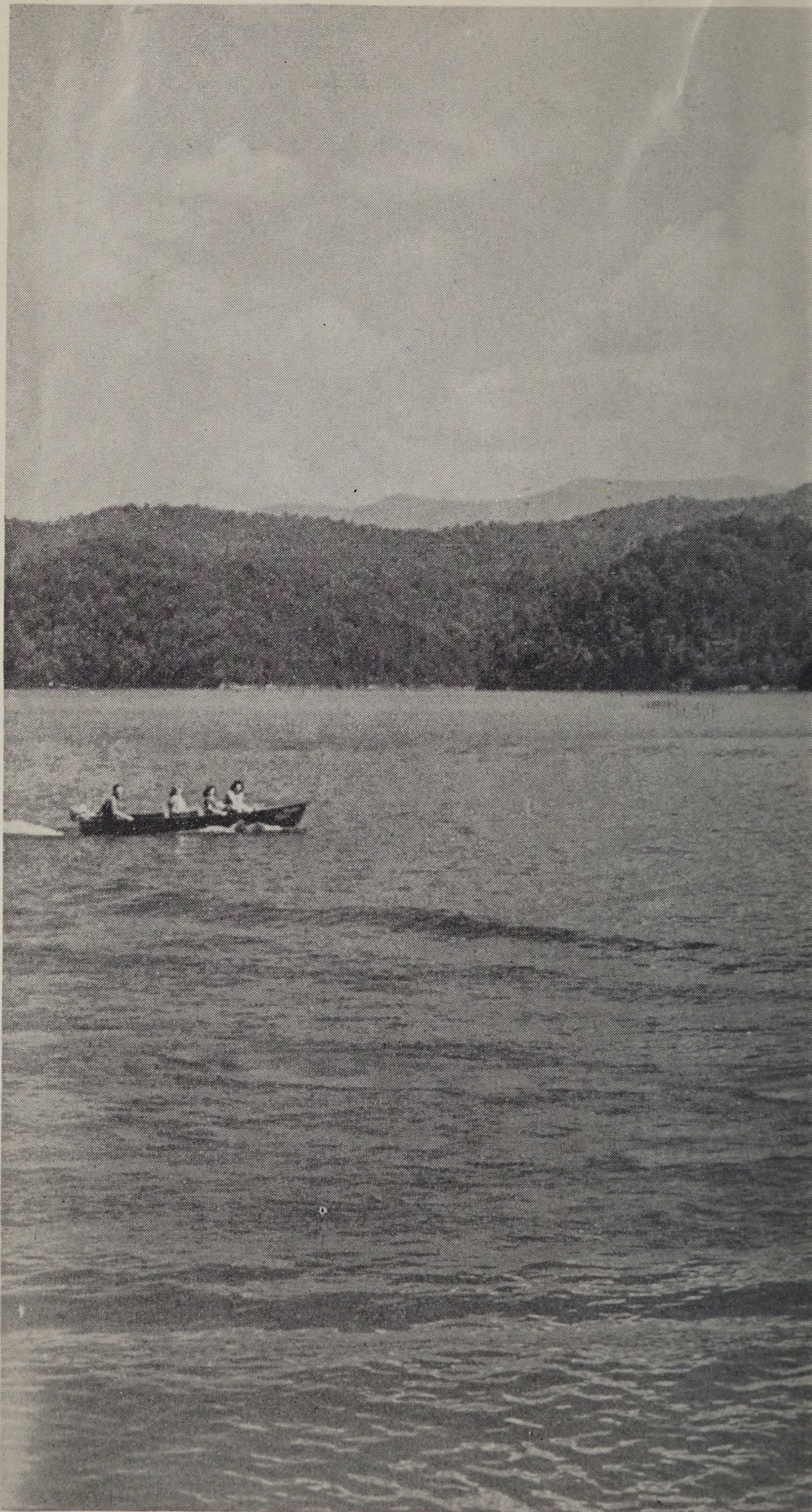
Wildlife management is a part of the land-management program. It provides for the protection and development of a suitable environment for all kinds of wildlife. Before the national forest was established, wildlife had been greatly depleted because of indiscriminate hunting and fishing, and deterioration of the habitat.



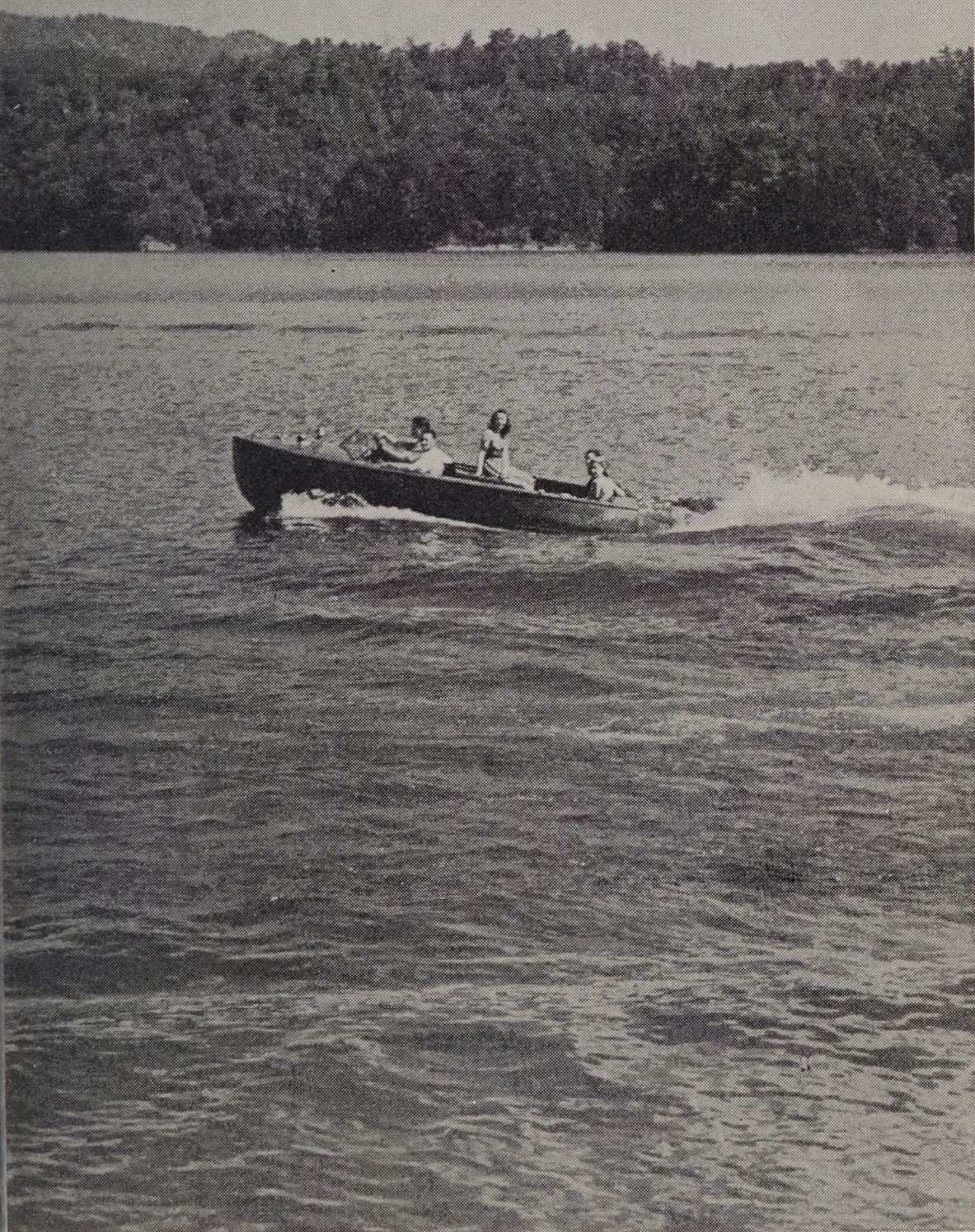
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*Hunting wild boar provides unique sport on the
Cherokee National Forest.*

The Forest Service and the Tennessee Department of Conservation cooperate closely in developing and managing the fish and game resources within the national forest. Since 1936, five cooperative management areas



Numerous lakes are large enough to satisfy the boating enth



st. (*Tennessee Department of Conservation photograph.*)



Bald River Falls. Protection of watersheds



n important phase of national-forest management.



A good day's catch from well-stocked streams.

have been established. These are the 44,000-acre Ocoee Area east of Cleveland; the 79,000-acre Tellico Area east of Tellico Plains; the 34,000-acre Unicoi Area west of Erwin; the 8,700-acre Andrew Johnson Refuge south of Greeneville; and the 35,000-acre Kettlefoot Area east of Bristol. One State refuge, the Laurel Fork Area of 7,900 acres on Laurel Fork Creek, southeast of Elizabethton, is managed cooperatively by the State of Tennessee and the U. S. Forest Service.

Regulated hunts are conducted each fall for deer, bear, and wild boar, as well as for small game. An average of about 4,000 hunters take part. The hunting periods and number of hunters are regulated to assure continuous game production and high quality sport.

The forest contains many miles of excellent trout fishing streams, which are stocked with brook and rainbow trout of legal size. Fishing is also controlled, and as a result the quality of the fishing compares favorably with that of the best streams in the country. A fish-rearing station is maintained at Pheasant Field, on the Tellico River 20 miles from Tellico Plains, where trout are reared to catchable size. Stocking is supervised cooperatively by the Tennessee Department of Conservation and the Forest Service.

The only restrictions on hunting and fishing on national forest land outside of the management areas are those required by State game and fish laws.

Information regarding hunting and fishing regulations and the game hunts on managed areas may be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Cleveland, Tenn., or the Department of Conservation, Nashville, Tenn.

Forest Fire Control

Fire is the most dreaded enemy of the forest. It kills young trees, damages timber, destroys wildlife, results in erosion which silts streams and reservoirs, and destroys the beauty of the forest.

Fire suppression and prevention on the national forest takes priority over all other jobs. Great progress has been made during the past 20 years. This is indicated by the current area-burned record of less than two-tenths of 1 percent (0.2%) annually.

Ninety-nine percent of the fires in the forest are caused by man. Smokers' fires, debris-burning, and incendiarism head the list of causes.

The most dangerous fire seasons on the Cherokee National Forest are March through May and October through November. During these periods fire towers are occupied day and night by men or women who watch for the first trace of smoke that may indicate the start of a forest fire.

Since all but 1 of 100 fires that occur on the Cherokee forest are man-caused, 99 should be prevented. Visitors and residents of the forest are urged to use the same care and thoughtfulness with fire in the forest as they use in their own homes.

Recreation

Recreation uses of the forest such as hunting, fishing, picnicking, camping, and hiking are encouraged. It is estimated that nearly 1 million visits by motorists and vacationists are made to the Cherokee forest annually. Cool mountain streams, scenic drives, hiking trails, and facilities for camping and picnicking offer vacationists a variety of outdoor enjoyment and relaxation.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which lies between the two divisions of the forest, comprises 445,000 acres. This park attracts more visitors than any other national park in the United States.

The TVA lakes and dams within the forest offer additional attractions for vacationists.

The mountains of eastern Tennessee are part of the great Appalachian range, geologically among the oldest in the world. Never high enough to be above timber line, except for occasional grassy "balds," they are covered with a mantle of green in summer, which turns to a mass of red, scarlet, yellow, and gold in autumn. Springtime, too, adds color with its myriad of flowering

plants, including the most conspicuous white and pink of dogwood and redbud, and the pinks and lavenders of azalea, mountain-laurel, and rhododendron.

Sources of Information

The Forest Supervisor and rangers are always glad to be of service to forest visitors. Call upon them for such help or advice as you may need. On the Cherokee, they are located as follows:

Forest Supervisor.—Cleveland, Tenn.

District Rangers.—Parksville, Etowah, Tellico Plains, Greeneville, and Elizabethton, Tenn.



Healthful outdoor recreation can be found on numerous forest areas. (Tennessee Department of Conservation photograph.)



F-446147

Beautiful forest roads invite the visitor to scenic and healthful recreation as well as providing arteries of commerce.



F-446160

Backbone Rock. An unusual geological formation near an attractive campground.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1953—O-252882



Roan Mountain. Acres of rhododendron b



ming in a setting of transcendent beauty.



Camp and picnic grounds are deve



bed and maintained for forest visitors.

DATES OF FLOWERING PERIODS AND AUTUMN COLOR

Redbud	April 1-15
Dogwood	April 15-May 1
Purple rhododendron—(Unaka Mountain)	June 1-10
(Roan Mountain)	June 15-July 10
Laurel and azalea	Mid-June
White rhododendron	Late June and July
Autumn color	October 15

SCENIC ROADS—CHEROKEE DIVISION

U. S. 64 from Parkville Lake along the north shore of the lake through Ocoee Gorge to Ducktown. **Tennessee 68** from Tellico Plains, via Buck Bald, Farmer, and Turtletown, to Ducktown. **Tennessee 30, Kinsey Highway**, from Reliance across Kinsey Mountain to junction with Tennessee 68, 4 miles north of Ducktown. **Forest Service Road** from junction of Tellico and North Rivers, via Stratton Gap and Hemlock Knob, to the Citico Creek Road. **Forest Service Road** from Tellico River, 9 miles east of Tellico Plains, via Citico Creek to U. S. 411 at Vonore. **Forest Service Road** from 5 miles above the dam on Parkville Lake along top of Chilhowee Mountain to junction with Tennessee 30, 2 miles south of Reliance. Outstanding views over Parkville Lake.

PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS—CHEROKEE DIVISION

Dam Creek—Tellico River road, 17 miles east of Tellico Plains. Picnicking; swimming in river. **Bald River**—Near junction of Tellico and Bald Rivers, 12 miles east of Tellico Plains. Reached by short walk on trail. Good view of the falls. **Spivey Cove**—Hunters' and fishermen's camp, 18 miles east of Tellico Plains. **Kimsey Campground**—High on Sasasfras Mountain, 12 miles east of Archville on the Kinsey Highway. Camping and picnicking. **Double Camp**—Hunters' and fishermen's camp on Citico Creek, 15 miles northeast of Tellico Plains. **Quinn Springs**—On Tennessee 30, 3 miles east of U. S. 411, near Hiwassee River. Picnicking and camping. **Parkville Lake**—On U. S. 64 between Ocoee and Ducktown. Commercial resort and boat dock available to the public. Picnicking and swimming along north shore. **Chilhowee**—Atop Bean Mountain, 6 miles south-east of Benton and 7 miles north of Parkville Lake. Facilities for use by large groups. Picnic areas, bathing beach, bathhouse, shelters, hiking trails, and beautiful view from high overlook. Bathhouse operated by concessioner. Fishing for bass and bream in lake. **Picnic spots**—Tables and fireplaces are located at various points along Tellico and North River roads.

POINTS OF INTEREST—CHEROKEE DIVISION

Fort Loudon—At junction of Tellico and Little Tennessee Rivers, 2 miles northeast of Vonore. Once the most western outpost of English civilization. Built by the British in 1756, its garrison was massacred by the French and Indians in 1760. **Stratton Meadow**—A grassy meadow at head of North River on the Tennessee-North Carolina line, 28 miles from Tellico Plains on the old route to Robbinsville, N. C. W. B. Stratton cleared the area over 100 years ago and raised cattle there. His grave is partly in each State. **Haw Knob**—Highest point on the Cherokee Division. Elevation 5,472 feet. May be reached by a hike of one-half mile from road. Located about 4 miles south of Stratton Meadow. **Falls Branch Scenic Area**—On Sasasfras Ridge road, 20 miles from Tellico Plains. An area of virgin hardwood including white ash, yellow-poplar, black cherry, hemlock, and sugar maple, reserved from timber cutting. A 65-foot waterfall on Falls Branch. **Hemlock Knob**—On Sasasfras Ridge, the divide between the Tellico and Citico watersheds. Mountain scenery overlooking the Jeffries Hell country to the north. **Pheasant Field Rearing Station**—On Tellico River, 20 miles east of Tellico Plains on Forest Service road. Trout-rearing pools.

Ducktown Basin—An area of 15 square miles in and around Ducktown and Copperhill denuded of all vegetation by sulfur fumes from copper smelters. Damage continued from 1870 until 1913, when equipment was installed to convert the sulfur fumes to sulfuric acid. Little damage is now occurring. **Bald River Falls**—On Tellico River Forest Service road, 11 miles east of Tellico Plains. A 100-foot waterfall. Scenic trail to points above the falls and to a small picnic area.

SCENIC ROADS AND TRAILS—UNAKA DIVISION

U. S. 19-E from Hampton via Doe River and Roan Mountain village to Elk Park N. C. **Forest Service Road** from Klenburg to South Holston Reservoir and U. S. 421, a distance of 15 miles. **Tennessee 91** from Elizabethton, via Stony Creek, to U. S. 421 in Shady Valley. This is the most direct route from Elizabethton to Backbone Rock Recreation Area and Damascus, Va.

Forest Service Road from junction with U. S. 19-W and 23, 1 mile north of Erwin, across Unaka Mountain, via Limestone Cove and North Indian Creek, back to U. S. 19-W and 23 at Unicoi.

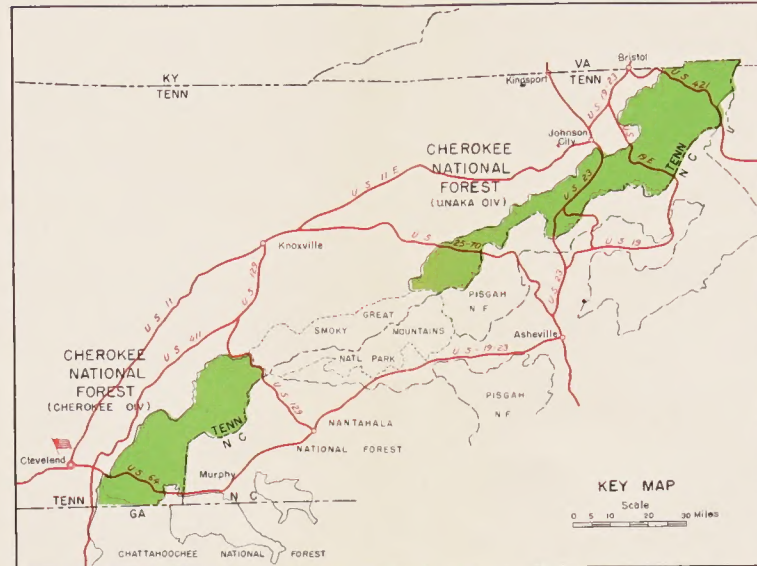
Forest Service Road from one-half mile north of the State line on Tennessee 70, to Camp Creek and Greenville.

Forest Service Road from junction with Tennessee 70, 13 miles south of Greenville, across Ricker Mountain, via French Broad River to Hot Springs, N. C.

Appalachian Trail from Mount Oglethorpe, Ga., to Mount Katahdin, Maine, a distance of 2,050 miles. Of this, 132 miles is in the Unaka Division, from the Tennessee-Virginia line just south of Damascus, Va., following the crest of Holston Mountain to Elizabethton, thence across Unaka Mountain with the Tennessee-North Carolina line to Hot Springs, N. C.

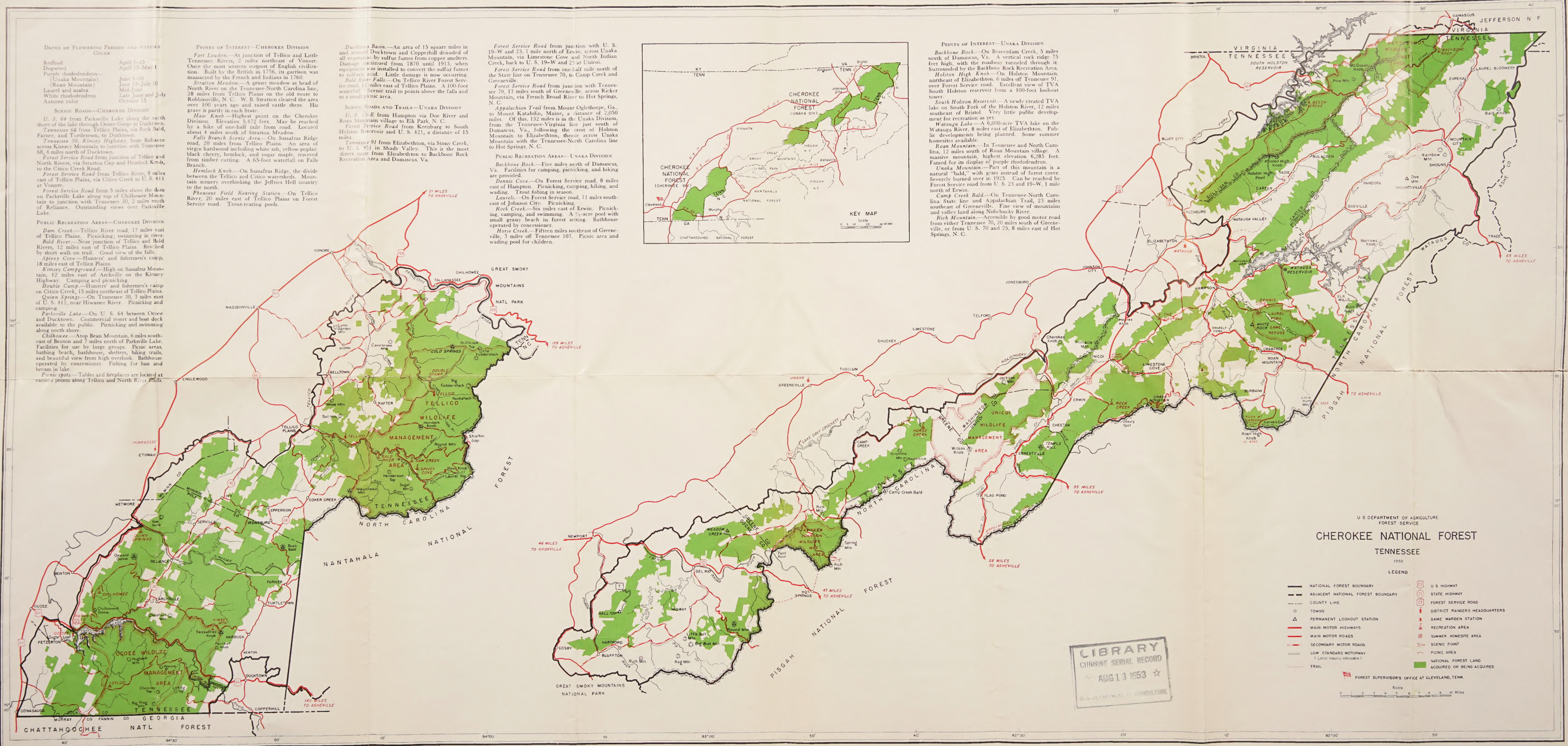
Public Recreation Areas—Unaka Division

Backbone Rock—Five miles south of Damascus, Va. Facilities for camping, picnicking, and hiking are provided. **Dennis Cove**—On Forest Service road, 8 miles east of Hampton. Picnicking, camping, hiking, and wading. Trout fishing in season. **Laurels**—On Forest Service road, 11 miles south-east of Johnson City. Picnicking. **Rock Creek**—Six miles east of Erwin. Picnicking, camping, and swimming. A 1/2-acre pool with small grassy beach in forest setting. Bathhouse operated by concessioner. **Horse Creek**—Fifteen miles southeast of Greenville, 3 miles off Tennessee 107. Picnic area and wading pool for children.



POINTS OF INTEREST—UNAKA DIVISION

Backbone Rock—On Beaverdam Creek, 5 miles south of Damascus, Va. A vertical rock ridge 75 feet high, with the roadway tunneled through it. Surrounded by the Backbone Rock Recreation Area. **Holston High Knob**—On Holston Mountain, northeast of Elizabethton, 6 miles off Tennessee 91, over Forest Service road. Excellent view of TVA South Holston reservoir from a 100-foot lookout tower. **South Holston Reservoir**—A newly created TVA lake on South Fork of the Holston River, 12 miles southeast of Bristol. Very little public development for recreation as yet. **Watauga Lake**—A 6,000-acre TVA lake on the Watauga River, 8 miles east of Elizabethton. Public developments being planned. Some summer homesites available. **Roan Mountain**—In Tennessee and North Carolina, 12 miles south of Roan Mountain village. A massive mountain, highest elevation 6,285 feet. Famed for its display of purple rhododendron. **Unaka Mountain**—Part of this mountain is a natural "bald," with grass instead of forest cover. Severely burned over in 1925. Can be reached by Forest Service road from U. S. 23 and 19-W, 1 mile north of Erwin. **Camp Creek Bald**—On Tennessee-North Carolina State line and Appalachian Trail, 23 miles southeast of Greenville. Fine view of mountains and valley land along Nolichucky River. **Rich Mountain**—Accessible by good motor road from either Tennessee 70, 20 miles south of Greenville, or from U. S. 70 and 25, 8 miles east of Hot Springs, N. C.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST TENNESSEE 1952

- LEGEND
- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
 - ADJACENT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
 - COUNTY LINE
 - TOWNS
 - PERMANENT LOOKOUT STATION
 - MAIN MOTOR HIGHWAYS
 - MAIN MOTOR ROADS
 - SECONDARY MOTOR ROADS
 - LOW STANDARD MOTORWAY (Local inquiry advisable)
 - TRAIL
 - U. S. HIGHWAY
 - STATE HIGHWAY
 - FOREST SERVICE ROAD
 - DISTRICT RANGERS HEADQUARTERS
 - GAME WARDEN STATION
 - RECREATION AREA
 - SUMMER HOMESITE AREA
 - SCENIC POINT
 - PICNIC AREA
 - NATIONAL FOREST LAND
 - ACQUIRED OR BEING ACQUIRED

FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE AT CLEVELAND, TENN.

Scale 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

